

12-18-1897

# Letter from Margaret Whitney Pratt, New York, New York, to Anne Whitney, Boston, Massachusetts, 1897 December 18

Margaret Whitney Pratt

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250,000?

1897  
35 years  
1862 in New Jersey



Miss Anne Whitney  
"The Charlesgate"  
Boston  
Mass.



2  
RECEIVED

of J. F. Whitney -  $\frac{10}{35}$  for the  
estate of Edward Whitney.  
1/35 for Charles after Uncle  
Edward's death -

The money was imme-  
diately taken - in a few  
days Mr Kingsley is  
looking over the figures  
found they had an  
error of some ninety  
thousand dollars <sup>in the amount of income</sup> - which  
was acknowledged - and

of course reduced the  
percentage below 2500.  
but, Mr Savage made  
another plea - asking

17

Dec 18<sup>th</sup> 1897.

203 West 103<sup>rd</sup> Street.

Dear Aunt Anne -

It was  
very good to get your letter  
and feel that you looked  
upon our home as a  
possible destination where  
you would find welcome  
and pleasure if the spirit  
and the flesh ever worked  
in such sympathy. That  
you could bring it about  
to abide for a while with  
your kith and kin!



I will write you a better letter than this soon - but now I am in doubt and mental questioning over an unfortunate business matter - and want a few words of your clear and keen judgment to help me out. There are facts - three; perhaps you know them. When Charlie relinquished the Trusteeship to which he was appointed by Uncle Edward - because we would not accept him <sup>without</sup> either a co-trustee or bonds - for some unknown motive - he made a claim through his lawyer Mr Savage on our estate - for a percentage for the services of his father - Uncle Edward and himself. The Court allowed twenty five hundred dollars for the thirty five years one per cent for the figures his lawyer presented - 24 <sup>75</sup> <sub>100</sub> for the estate



Could have any justice  
in it! He can ill afford  
to lose the thirty four hun-  
dred dollars of which our  
estate has been depleted  
but the principle involved  
has hurt more than the  
loss of money through  
Charlie's unfriendly course.  
What I want to learn  
from you is - if you  
can tell me, why he should  
make the claim. and  
did he make a similar  
claim on Aunt Sarah's  
estate for Uncle Edward?

203 West 103<sup>rd</sup> Street.

that the first amount be  
retained as they had already  
taken the money - and  
the Court allowed the  
first order to stand - conse-  
quently that raised the  
percentage to three per  
cent - on a smaller sum  
or income. As correctly  
as I know - about seven  
hundred dollars went  
to Uncle Edward's estate.  
This percentage <sup>of 2,500.</sup> on  
income was claimed  
for the services of both



Uncle Edward and Uncle  
James during the years  
of their faithful and  
loving trusteeship. I  
wrote Mr Stowe as strongly  
as I could and told him  
we considered it a flagrant  
violation of the generous  
intentions of both uncles  
and most cruel and  
unjust. And there was  
no justice whatever in  
making a claim for the  
estate of J. F. Whitney for  
twenty four years - and  
for the estate of Edward  
Whitney for ten years - when

both men were trustees  
and Uncle Edward through  
the thirty four years was  
the responsible head and  
constantly adding to our  
estate. Mr Stowe wrote  
me that he was advised  
by the members of the family  
that my Uncle Edward did  
not intend to charge for  
his services and if a claim  
was made the money would  
be returned." That first  
sentence meant a world  
to us all. It was such  
a denial of Uncle Edward's  
lifelong generosity toward  
us - that such a thing

203 West 103<sup>rd</sup> Street.

years of service to her -  
which seems to me  
a parallel case. If  
there was any legal  
necessity about the  
matter. I wish to accept  
it in Charlie's transac-  
tion. Mr Kingsley tells  
me "there was not."

The whole matter has been  
a great strain - and  
if you can reconcile  
me to the difference  
between what Mr Stowe  
wrote and then what



was done, I shall be  
very grateful - and  
if the money ordered  
by the Court to be paid  
to the Estate of Edward  
Whitney is to be returned  
to our estate.

When I see you again  
there are things easier  
to talk over than to write.  
- but I shall await your  
reply to this with great  
interest.

I will write you a family  
holiday letter in a few  
days. We are all on the  
mend after colds and  
diverse ailments -

Most lovingly yours.  
Margaret W. Pratt.